

Remarks

Request for Reconsideration

The Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Present Invention

The present invention is unique in that it is designed to utilize a minimal amount of axial installation space with a low structural complexity. As recited in claim 1, this is accomplished by having the ring gear being a part of either the drive wheel or the output component. In claim 2, two bearing journals are attached to the adjustment shaft and bear against two regions of the sleeve lying opposite one another aid in elliptically deforming a flexurally elastic sleeve.

Claim Status

Claims 1-11 and claims 13-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 14 and 16 have been amended herein to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments should be entered because they address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues raised by the Examiner and place the case in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The term “other gear” in line 8 of claims 1 and 2 has been deleted, and claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the ring gear-spur gear pairing having a first ring gear and a spur gear and that the first ring gear is connected to the drive wheel and the spur gear has a torque transmitting connection to the output component.

The term “the gearing” in line 13 of claims 1 and 2 has been replaced with the wave generator.

Claims 1-5 have been amended to use the phrase “elastic sleeve” throughout.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been amended to refer to the first ring gear rather than ring gear.

Claim 8 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 7 because claim 7 provides antecedent basis for the BLDC motor.

Claim 14 has been amended to delete “the components.”

Respectfully, no new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 4/1, 5/1, 6/1, 8/1, 13/1, 14/5/1 and 20/1 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Elrod, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,417,186); and claims 2, 4/2, 5/2, 6/2, 13/2, 14/5/2, 18-19 and 20/2 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elrod.

The present invention is distinguishable over Elrod.

First, with respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims, claim 1 recites that either the first ring gear and the drive wheel are one piece or the first ring gear and the output component and the first ring gear are formed as one component. Elrod does not teach or suggest the ring gear is part of either the drive wheel or the output component. Such an arrangement in the present invention reduces the number of parts and improves the design. Moreover, gears 40, 50 and 60 disclosed by Elrod are either screwed to the drive wheel (35) or one of the output members (45, 54). This is not the case in the present invention as described in claim 1.

Turning to claim 2 and its dependent claims, claim 2 recites two bearing journals which are radially disposed opposite each other and attached to the adjustment shaft. These bearing journals are used to deform the elastic sleeve. Elrod does not show such a design.

The Examiner pointed to bearings 81 in Elrod as two bearing journals, but 81 is a bearing, not a bearing journal.

Respectfully, the claims as presented herein are patentable over Elrod.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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